



S/S-5680

Telegram received from White House
for transmission to ~~S/S Pending~~
VIENNA: Received by W Brandt
Davis: 4/26/69; Telegram sent 4/26/69

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 14, 1969

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P
RF

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HENRY A. KISSINGER
THE WHITE HOUSE

Attention Mrs. McCall
Keep this study together.

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Subject: Proposed Coverage by Austrian Television
of U.S. ABM Decision

The attached telegram from Vienna reports the plans of Austrian Television to present a series of programs on various aspects of the United States decision regarding the ABM system. The Embassy recommends that the Departments of State and Defense and the United States Information Agency assist the commentator, Dr. Hugo Portisch, who will produce the series.

The Department believes that a favorable reply should be given. Austrian television has a widespread audience and is followed closely in Czechoslovakia and Hungary. Dr. Portisch, who has been Austrian Television's leading political commentator for the past year, following many years in journalism, is friendly to the West and has the reputation of being a careful and objective reporter. He has been in the United States on many occasions, most recently to cover the presidential campaign. Portisch's reputation, plus the acceptability of Austrian Television because of its origin in a neutral country and its objectivity give us the opportunity to reach a great many people who otherwise would not hear the United States side of this problem.

If Dr. Portisch is to produce an objective and credible series, he must have the opportunity to interview

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY [Signature]DATE 7/15/80RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

TS AUTH.

REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒RELEASE DENIED ☐

PA 62-101 EXEMPTIONS

MICROFILMED
BY S/S: CMS

EWR/AIS: John E. Cr

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2.

leading United States officials regarding the ABM decision, to visit unclassified installations, and film wherever possible. He must also, in the interests of objectivity, be assisted in obtaining interviews with opponents of the decision. In order that a reply may be made to Vienna, the Department requests White House guidance on this proposal.

John P. Walsh
John P. Walsh

Acting Executive Secretary

Attachment:
VIENNA 1662

S/S *JS*
A True Copy

103
EUR/AIS: John E. Crump:gb
4/11/69 x3727

P - Mr. Tobey *JS*

J/PM - Mr. Ausland *JS*

EUR - Mr. Toon *MT*

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Department of State TELEGRAM

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ACTION EUR 20

INFO P 04, USIE 00, CIAEI 00, INR 07, NSAE 00, RSC 01, DODE 00, RSR 01, JPM 04,
SP 02, SS 20, NSC 10, /069 W

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R 031710Z APR 69
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6682

CONFIDENTIAL VIENNA 1662

JOINT EMBASSY/USIS/DEFENSE MESSAGE

DEFENSE FOR ASD (PA) ATTN: OMAF

1. DR. HUGO PORTISCH, WELL-KNOWN AUSTRIAN TELEVISION COMMENTATOR, HAS BEEN COMMISSIONED BY AUSTRIAN RADIO/TV TO DO THREE-PART COLOR TV SERIES, BOOK (TO BE PUBLISHED BY MOLDEN) ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF US ABM SYSTEM. PORTISCH IS WELL-KNOWN TO STATE, DEFENSE AND USIA AS EXTREMELY SYMPATHETIC EXPONENT OF US POLICIES AND HAS WIDE AUDIENCE IN AUSTRIA AND DEEP INTO SOVIET BLOC.

2. COUNTRY TEAM STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT DOD, DEPARTMENT AND USIA FULLY ASSIST PORTISCH IN WHAT MAY BE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT POSITIVE ASPECTS OF US PROGRAM TO ABOVE CITED AUDIENCE AS WELL AS POSSIBLE TV PICKUPS IN FRG AND SWITZERLAND. (CREDIBILITY, OF COURSE, GREATLY ENHANCED BY FACT THAT PORTISCH WOULD BE REPORTING FROM NEUTRAL AUSTRIA.)

3. AS PORTISCH HAS OUTLINED PROJECT, IT FALLS INTO THREE MAIN CATEGORIES:

(A) TECHNOLOGY: PRESENT STATE OF MISSILE DEFENSE. DOES ABM CALL FOR NEW WEAPONRY? WILL ABM INTRODUCE TECHNOLOGY AND/OR HAVE SPIN-OFF BENEFITS FOR PEACEFUL USES?

(B) STRATEGY: WHAT IS STRATEGIC THINKING BEHIND PRESENT MISSILE DEFENSE-DETERRENT, EQUILIBRIUM OF POWER? WILL ABM CHANGE STRATEGIC CONCEPTS?

(C) POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY: WHAT HAPPENS TO CONGRESSIONAL ADVICE AND CONSENT, HUMAN ELEMENT IN GENERAL IN VIEW OF INSTANT

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DECISION-MAKING REQUIRED BY ABM SYSTEM? WHAT ARE PROSPECTS OF THIS ASPECT? IMMENSE EXPENDITURES INVOLVED BRINGING US, SOVIETS TO CONFERENCE TABLE?

3. IN ORDER TO DO TV SERIES/BOOK PORTISCH WILL HAVE TO SEE TOP EXPERTS IN FIELDS MENTIONED ABOVE, BE GIVEN THOROUGH TOUR OF UNCLASSIFIED INSTALLATIONS, BE PERMITTED TO FILM WHEREEVER POSSIBLE.

4. TIME IS OF ESSENCE. PORTISCH'S TIGHT SCHEDULE PERMITS HIM ONLY THREE WEEKS IN US STARTING LATE APRIL. URGE THIS REQUEST BE GIVEN FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION AND THAT A DETAILED PROGRAM BE WORKED OUT FOR HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. MACARTHUR.

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April 26

S/S - Mr. Werner Brandt

Per our telephone conversation. The attached teletypegram has been approved by Dr. Kissinger in connection with S/S 5680.

DM
Jean W. Davis

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FROM: SECSTATE WASH DC

TO: AMEMBASSY VIENNA

REF: VIENNA 1662

1. USG prepared assist Austrian Television series on Safeguard ABM system under direction Dr. Hugo Portisch within general guidelines proposed reftel.
2. Details arrangements for Executive Branch consultation not yet final, but Portisch will have access to expert level. BEGIN FYI. If schedules permit, both Deputy Secretary Packard and Henry Kissinger willing meet with Portisch, possibly for filmed interviews. END FYI
3. For planning require soonest Portisch ETA in US and maximum length of stay in keeping production schedule. Also please advise whether other members TV production team would accompany, and what advance preparations, if any, required to meet technical requirements.

DEF 1 US